

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 /085 W
-----079868 151835Z /47

O R 161734Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4504
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 DAKAR 4578

LONDON FOR MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CG, SG
SUBJECT: AFRICAN TROOPS IN SHABA
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REF: STATE 150529

1. SUMMARY: THE SHABA OPERATION IS NOT TOO POPULAR HERE
BECAUSE OF ZAIRIAN EXPULSIONS OF SENEGALESE NATIONALS A FEW
YEARS AGO. IN ADDITION, THE SENEGALESE MILITARY FEEL
THEY ARE BEING SHORTCHANGED ON PROMISED LOGISTICAL

ASSISTANCE BY THE FRENCH AND ZAIRIANS. SENGHOR WANTS THE SHABA OPERATIONS TO WORK BECAUSE HE WANTS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT MODERATE AFRICANS CAN ASSURE THEIR OWN SECURITY PROVIDED THE WEST HELPS WITH MATERIAL AND TRANSPORT. ALL THIS INDICATES THE GOS WILL PROBABLY BE HAPPY TO PULL OUT WITHIN 90 DAYS AND WILL PROBABLY BE HAPPY TO CONSULT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE BASIC FACTORS MOTIVATING THE SENEGALESE WITH RESPECT TO THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE SHABA FORCE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. THE IDEA OF HELPING ZAIRE IS NOT A POPULAR ONE HERE BECAUSE SENEGALESE CITIZENS WERE BRUTALLY EXPELLED FROM ZAIRE A FEW YEARS AGO. AS PRESIDENT SENGHOR SAID IN WASHINGTON JUNE 8, "WE DO NOT FEEL VERY CLOSE TO ZAIRE."

B. FOR PROFESSIONAL REASONS, THE SENEGALESE MILITARY ARE NOT VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE SHABA OPERATION. THEY FEEL THE FRENCH ARE SHORTCHANGING THEM TO THE POINT WHERE THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO PERFORM ADEQUATELY. FIRST REPORTS FROM THE 307-MAN SENEGALESE CONTINGENT THAT ARRIVED JUNE 13 INDICATE THAT THE VEHICLES WHICH WERE PROMISED WERE NOT AVAILABLE AT LUBUMBASHI. MILITARY ARE THEREFORE LIKELY TO BE PUTTING PRESSURE ON DAKAR FOR AN EARLIER RATHER THAN A LATER WITHDRAWAL DATE.

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C. GOS ADVISERS AND TECHNOCRATS ARE OBJECTING TO SENEGALESE PARTICIPATION IN THE SHABA FORCE ON FINANCIAL GROUNDS. LAST YEAR'S PEANUT CROP, SENEGAL'S MAIN CASH EARNER, WAS LESS THAN ONE-HALF OF NORMAL. MONEY IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS IS BECOMING NOTABLY TIGHT.

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 DAKAR 4578

LONDON FOR MOOSE

D. ON POLITICAL LEVEL, SENGHOR IS LEADING PROPONENT
OF AFRICAN REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO DETER EXTERNAL
AGGRESSION. IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT TO HIM THAT THIS
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OPERATION SUCCEED AS DEMONSTRATION AFRICAN MODERATES CAN
PROVIDE FOR THEIR OWN SECURITY PROVIDED THE WEST HELPS
WITH MATERIAL AND LOGISTICS. THIS OBJECTIVE CAN PRE-
SUMABLY BE ACCOMPLISHED IN 90 DAYS OR LESS.

3. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, GOS SHOULD BE AMENABLE
TO SOME TYPE OF CONSULTATIVE PROCESS AMONG ALL THOSE
INVOLVED IN THE SHABA OPERATION. GOS OBJECTIVES WOULD
BE TO:

- A. OBTAIN RENEWED ASSURANCES THAT SENEGALESE
CONTINGENT WILL BE FULLY SUPPLIED SO THAT IT CAN DO THE
JOB ADEQUATELY;
- B. SET A TIME LIMIT ON THEIR PARTICIPATION.
- C. GET SOME CONCRETE HELP ON FINANCING THE
SENEGALESE CONTINGENT.

4. ON THE QUESTION OF HOW BEST TO BEGIN AND ORGANIZE A CONSULTATIVE PROCESS, THE SENEGALESE ARE NATURALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMAGE OF AFRICAN FORCES OPERATING UNDER FRANCO-AMERICAN TUTELAGE. A FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT HAS RECENTLY BEEN HELD IN PARIS, AND A ZAIRE SECURITY MEETING WAS HELD IN PARIS WITH NO AFRICANS PRESENT. FROM THIS OPTIC, IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE MORE ACCEPTABLE POLITICALLY AT THIS POINT IF THE INITIATIVE FOR CONSULTATIONS COULD COME FROM THE AFRICANS, AND IF THE NEXT VENUE COULD BE SOMEPLACE IN AFRICA. IF THE US STIMULATES SUCH CONSULTATIONS, OR EVEN PARTICIPATES UNDER OTHER LEADERSHIP, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH REQUESTS FOR MATERIAL ASSISTANCE FROM SENEGAL.

5. I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO SEE PRESIDENT SENGHOR MONDAY, JUNE 19 AT 1830 GMT. IF THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS IT USEFUL AND TIMELY, I COULD TAKE UP THIS QUESTION WITH
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HIM AND SEEK BOTH HIS ADVICE AND COOPERATION. I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT SENGHOR IS CALLING ME IN TO DISCUSS THIS VERY SUBJECT UNDER PRESSURE FROM HIS MILITARY CHIEF OF STAFF.
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